

**ARIZONA OUTDOOR RECREATION COORDINATING COMMISSION
(AORCC)
OF
ARIZONA STATE PARKS (ASP)
Peoria City Council Chambers
8401 W. Monroe St
Peoria, AZ
June 12, 2008**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

(Note: In the absence of Chair Bell, Commissioner Travous as senior member agreed to act as Chair for this meeting.) Acting Chair Travous called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. Ms. Shulman took the roll and announced that there was a quorum.

Commission Members Present:

Ken Travous
William Schwind
Devin Rankin
Karla Brady

Commission Members Absent:

Jeff Bell
Mary Ellen Bittorf
Larry Voyles

Arizona State Parks Staff:

Jay Zieman, Assistant Director
Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Grants
Pat Dutrack, Grants Coordinator
Bob Baldwin, Grants Coordinator
Danielle Silvas, Grants Coordinator
Ruth Shulman, Advisory Committee Coordinator

Guests:

Matthew Hanson, City of Goodyear
Kelly Gomez, Pascua Yaqui Tribe
Kirk Haines, City of Peoria
Nathan Barrett, Tohono O'odham Nation, San Xavier District
Daniel Barbara, La Paz County
Gary Scott, City of Tucson
Rick Picard, City of Peoria, Fire Department

B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

Members and staff introduced themselves.

C. ELECTION OF AORCC CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Mr. Travous asked the members for nominations. Mr. Schwind nominated the current Chair and Vice-Chair to remain in those positions. Ms. Brady seconded the nomination. Ms. Shulman noted that there is no current Vice-Chair. Mr. Hays, whose term expired at the beginning of 2008, formerly occupied the position. Mr. Travous asked for a vote to retain Mr. Bell as Chair. The motion carried.

Mr. Travous asked the members whether the Vice-Chair election should be tabled until the next meeting, to which the members agreed. This item is tabled until August 14, 2008.

D. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Minutes from the April 10, 2008 meeting.

Ms. Brady moved to approve the minutes with two corrections. One is add “said” to the first paragraph on page three, following “Mr. Baldwin...” The second change was to page seven, second paragraph, regarding a quote from Ms. Brady regarding \$4 million of SLIF funds. Following discussion to clarify, the minutes will be amended to note that the \$4 million “sweep” of the 2007 SLIF funds Ms. Brady referred to would not affect the grants approved for the 2007 grant cycle. Mr. Schwind seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion.

E. PRESENTATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS

Mr. Travous noted that the Legislature is currently discussing “sweeping” the funds for each of these programs to help deal with the budget shortfall. He also noted that applicants could discuss the importance of these funds with their legislators if they so chose.

a. Presentation of FY 2008 Local, Regional and State Parks (LRSP) Heritage Fund Grant Applications

Pat Dutrack began the presentation of the 2008 applications by introducing the grant coordinators for the programs on the agenda. She also asked that applicants who attended the meeting in order to speak and/or answer questions about the application be heard when the particular application was presented. The members agreed.

Ms. Dutrack noted that there were 18 eligible applications received for LRSP program consideration, for approximately \$7.3 million dollars. This represents a decrease of approximately 50% over last year’s applications. For FY2008, there had been 20 applications originally received, and two have already been withdrawn. The applications are as follows:

1. Apache County partnering with the Town of Eagar to improve an existing rodeo grounds, the arena, and some of the buildings.

2. City of Avondale for Phase II development of the 85-acre Festival Fields park.
3. City of Buckeye to development a park adjacent to a historic cotton gin.
4. Bullhead City requests funds to complete the soccer field development at Rotary Park. Earlier projects were also funded with LRSP dollars.
5. City of Flagstaff partnering with the Flagstaff Unified School District to improve a school playground and add new facilities.
6. City of Goodyear is requesting funds to continue develop a community park near the high school in Estrella Mountain Ranch. Matthew Hanson, the Grant Administrator for the City of Goodyear, spoke on the project, beginning by thanking the commission for their time. This project is a partnership between three entities: The City of Goodyear, the Estrella School District, and Newland, the developer of Estrella Mountain Ranch. This application will build an aquatic center to add to the existing park. This aquatic center will provide the nearby high school with a place for its swim team to practice, and a public recreation facility for the City. Mr. Schwind asked how many schools would be served by the aquatic center. Mr. Hanson said that although the facility is adjacent to the high school it is a City of Goodyear facility and is intended to serve all seven school districts. Mr. Schwind asked whether any other schools will be using the aquatic facility. Mr. Hanson said that the City has signed a use agreement with the Estrella School District to allow the high school swim team to practice.
7. Maricopa County partnering with the Zoological Society to construct a “green” ADA restroom facility at the Phoenix Zoo. The Zoo currently has one facility like this, which has worked out well.
8. Oro Valley is requesting funds to develop a dog park along the Cañada del Oro River.
9. The Pasqua Yaqui Tribe is applying for funds to begin development of the 30-acre Pueblo Tribal Park. Kelly Gomez from the tribe spoke on the project, and provided the members with photos and a map of the proposed park. The tribe was officially recognized in 1978 with approximately 5,000 members and 202 acres. The tribe has since grown to approximately 16,000 members and nearly 1800 acres of land. This increase has meant that the need for recreational facilities has also increased. The tribal council has allocated approximately 30 acres for a multi-use recreational park. The council also committed to funding of \$485,000 to accomplish this project. This project represents Phase II of a three-phase development. Ms. Gomez went on to describe the facilities to be built in Phase II, and noted that the population served by the park will be age diverse.

10. City of Peoria is requesting funds for their second regional park to be located at 83rd and Olive Avenues. Kirk Haines, Park Manager for the City, spoke on the application and provided a handout with further information. He noted that the land had been acquired approximately three years ago. The application addresses several recreation priorities for the community. The parcel is currently grazing land, and the first capital investment will be for infrastructure. The emphasis will be sports fields for adults and youth, and an urban fishing lake in partnership with the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD). Mr. Schwind asked what percentage of the park would be accomplished in Phase I. Mr. Haines said that they project 15-20 acres, which would be approximately 30% of the total project. The emphasis again would be the lake and athletic fields.
11. City of Pinetop-Lakeside is applying for funds to create a new ball field at Mountain Meadow Recreation Complex.
12. San Carlos Apache Tribe partnering with the Tribe's School District to develop an aquatic center.
13. Santa Cruz County is applying for funds to build a soccer field at the Robert Damon Recreation Complex in Rio Rico. The only other soccer field available is in Nogales.
14. City of Surprise requesting funds to develop Phase I of the Surprise Farms Park project.
15. San Xavier District - The Tohono O'odham Nation is applying to develop a small neighborhood park adjacent to the Indian Health Services Clinic. Nathan Barrett spoke on the application. He noted that the district is divided in two by Interstate 19, with no convenient legal or safe pedestrian connection between the divisions. The majority of the community lives on the west side of the freeway, and that side also has most of the community facilities, including the existing recreation center. On the east side, there are several small neighborhoods and the clinic. Building this park would allow access to recreation for the community, and also to Native Americans who use the clinic from around the Tucson area. Since the application was submitted, the District received a grant for \$15,000 from the Greater Arizona Development Authority to assist in the planning and engineering portion of the park development. Ms. Rankin asked about the size of the community that will have access and use the facility. Mr. Barrett said that there are approximately 22 homes in the area, as well as 25-30 children. The clinic is a very busy regional facility and patients and visitors would also be served.

16. City of Tucson is requesting a new ball field and lighting for an existing field at Juhan Park.
17. City of Tucson is requesting lighting of the soccer fields at Silverlake Park. Gary Scott of the City spoke on the project. The fields are recognized by the Randolph Soccer Club as their home facility. Since the application was submitted, additional partners to the project have signed on and provided funds of \$85,000. The US Soccer Foundation granted \$50,000 to the Randolph Soccer Club as part of that new funding. The Randolph Soccer Club represents approximately 41 teams with approximately 590 youth players. Mr. Schwind asked how long the fields have existed. Mr. Scott replied that they are 5-6 years old.
18. Yavapai County partnering with the Beaver Creek Unified School District to continue developing ball fields. The existing facility has been constructed entirely by volunteers. The community is located near Rim Rock.

b. Presentation of FY 2008 Trails Heritage Fund Grant Applications

Bob Baldwin noted that the Trails Heritage Fund program had received 8 eligible applications for a total \$832,578. Those applications are:

1. City of Avondale is requesting funds to construct safety fencing along the Agua Fria River Corridor Trail along the steep banks of the river.
2. Bureau of Land Management – Tucson Field Office is requesting funds for acquisition and development of property that will complete 7 miles of the White Canyon Wilderness Area section of the Arizona Trail.
3. City of Flagstaff for the FUTS Trail System Rio North section is applying for funds to construct a footbridge for the section of trail that crosses the Rio de Flag. This would provide connectivity.
4. National Park Service – Saguaro National Park is requesting funds for an eligible one-time trail renovation/maintenance on the Heartbreak Ridge section of the Arizona Trail. The trails have been in use for a long time, and were designed according to an old standard, which does not allow for water to run off the trail.
5. City of Payson is requesting funds to develop two trails within the Payson Area Trails System (PATs). The Goat Camp Trail is a connector piece near a sensitive archaeological site. The funds requested would build an interpretive trail and protective fencing. The other trail is the Jimmy Harris Trail, which is need of a new trailhead.
6. City of Peoria is requesting funds to develop the New River trail under the Grand Ave. overpass. This would connect with existing trail on the other

side. Kirk Haines of the City spoke on the project. He said that this project would create a trail that would connect with other trails in Peoria as well as other nearby communities. This development requires a number of easements and partnerships to accomplish. He noted that New River is a drainage structure with concrete walls for which a recreational use easement has been acquired from Maricopa County Flood Control District. Partnerships were also formed with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and the Burlington Northern Railroad. He also described the trails system and its series of connections to other trails in nearby communities. He noted that casual water still flows in the structure, which has allowed the Flood Control District to provide a sort of riparian area. Ms. Brady asked if the Army Corps of Engineers had any issues with a trail being constructed through a flood drainage area. Mr. Haines said that as long as the flow is maintained and the elevation remains unchanged, the Corps has no problem. Mr. Schwind asked for clarification of the nature of the project, wanting to know if it was a 1300-foot tunnel under the overpass. Mr. Haines said that it is not a tunnel, but rather a raised pathway in the bottom of the flood channel. The intent is to raise the pathway over the 20-year flood mark.

7. City of Phoenix is requesting funds for the Telegraph Pass Trailhead Development, which will provide additional parking at the south side entrance of South Mountain Park. This will double the access to that area.
8. City of Prescott is applying for funds for acquisition and development of the "Legacy Extension" of the Prescott Circle Trail. This trail is a 40-mile trail that circles Prescott. The project will remove the trailhead and two miles of trail from the roadway.

Mr. Schwind asked if the eight eligible applications were all that were received for this grant cycle. Mr. Baldwin said they were all that were received.

c. Presentation of FY 2008 State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF) Grant Applications

Danielle Silvas began by saying that the SLIF program had received 12 applications for FY 2008 and all 12 are eligible. The applications represent \$6.4 million dollars in requests. There will be approximately \$3.7 million in funds available for grants, representing approximately \$1.7 million in deobligated funds and carryover, and the approximately \$2 million annual appropriation. The projects are:

1. Bullhead City is requesting funds to replace two of the four City law enforcement watercraft to patrol along the Colorado River.
2. Bullhead City is also requesting funds to begin initial development of Section 12, which was funded through a SLIF grant last year. The

development will consist largely of infrastructure to provide local public access to the river, etc.

3. City of Peoria is applying for funds to purchase a medical Fire/Rescue Boat for Lake Pleasant. Rick Picard of the Peoria Fire Department spoke on the project. He said that currently, the Fire Department handles all fire and EMS services to Lake Pleasant, staffed 365 days annually. They do not have a boat currently, and must borrow one from Pleasant Harbor Marina. In 2007, the City did a comprehensive study of the needs for services on the lake. Patients are experiencing a delay of 20-30 minutes, and the fire services have inadequate water pressure to fight fires. The marina boat is sometimes not available to the Fire Department for emergencies. Additionally, a new marina is due to be constructed, which will increase lake usage. Mr. Travous asked if Maricopa County patrolled the lake. Mr. Picard said that the County Sheriffs provide law enforcement services through an agreement with the City. Peoria provides fire and EMS services. AGFD provides services only with their scope, as in fishing and game rules. Mr. Schwind asked about the number of calls the Peoria Fire Department handles annually. Mr. Picard said that the last study, completed in October 2007, showed 267 calls. This year, the number of calls has increased, as well the severity of injuries EMS is handling. Mr. Travous asked for the location of the operation on the lake. Mr. Picard said that the fire station is located at Pleasant Harbor Marina.
4. Coconino County Sheriffs Office is requesting funds to purchase two patrol boats for Lake Powell. One will be a replacement boat, the other will be a new purchase.
5. La Paz County is requesting funds to complete Phase II of the electrical renovation of the RV spaces at La Paz County Park. Daniel Barbara of La Paz County spoke on the project. Ms. Silvas said, in response to a question from Mr. Travous, that La Paz County had been granted money last year for Phase I of the renovation work. Mr. Barbara said that Phase I is in the engineering process, and includes replacing an outdated water system. He noted that the RV section is quite large, and the park is the leading provider for RV parking along the river in that county. This project will also replace old electric cables underground and electrify the ramadas.
6. Lake Havasu City is requesting funds to dredge the Bridgewater Channel, which is filling with silt and sand.
7. Lake Havasu City is requesting funds to purchase a Fire/Rescue boat, lift and dock station for the Windsor Beach area.
8. Lake Havasu City is requesting funds to purchase two replacement Police patrol boats.

9. Lake Havasu City is applying for funds for the South/Mainland boat launch, Phase II.
10. Maricopa County Parks and Recreation is requesting funds to reopen the Agua Fria Conservation Area access to fishing.
11. Maricopa County Parks and Recreation is applying for funds for a navigational aid boat and trailer to help them drop buoys into the water.
12. Maricopa County Sheriffs Office is requesting funds to purchase two Police boat for diving operations.

F. REPORTS

1. Parks Board Actions on AORCC Items

The only AORCC item before the Board at their most recent meeting was lowering the match percentage on Trails Heritage grants. This item had been presented to AORCC at their April 10, 2008 by the Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT) and recommended to the Board unanimously at that meeting.

The Board discussed the matter, presented a number of alternatives to lowering the match percentage, charged Staff to review those alternatives and determine their impact, and tabled the item until their August meeting.

Ms. Brady asked whether the matter was likely to return to AORCC. Ms. Pulsifer said that it would not unless the Board sends it back.

2. Legislative Update

Jay Zieman, the legislative liaison for ASP, noted that the legislature still does not have a balanced budget for FY 2009, which begins July 1, 2008. The shortfall is currently at \$1.9 – 2.2 billion dollars. He urged applicants to speak with their representatives. Mr. Schwind asked if a mid-year sweep of funds was likely in January. Mr. Zieman said that because the budget process is complicated, it is likely that a mid-year sweep could occur in order to “get it right”. Mr. Schwind then asked if the rise in fuel prices had any effect on the SLIF fund. Mr. Zieman said that it has not yet affected the SLIF fund as far as is known now. The cost of fuel may negatively impact the fund as people may not be purchasing fuel for their boats. Ms. Silvas noted that the 2006 watercraft survey is available, and another survey is due in 2009.

Ms. Brady asked whether the legislature could sweep previously obligated funds in a worst-case scenario. Mr. Zieman said that the only time this has happened in the past was with the Off-Highway Vehicle program. In the next few days, it is critical for citizens to contact their representatives to let them know how important these funds are, because in the current environment the rescinding of grants could happen.

3. Heritage Fund Report

Ms. Pulsifer said that the distribution has not yet arrived, and therefore there is no report this meeting.

G. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None.

**H. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS, MATTERS OF BOARD
PROCEDURE, REQUESTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

None. However note the tabling of the election of Vice-Chair until next meeting.

I. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

August 14, 2008 – Peoria City Council Chambers – Grant Recommendations

J. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Travous called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Schwind moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Brady seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion. The meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.